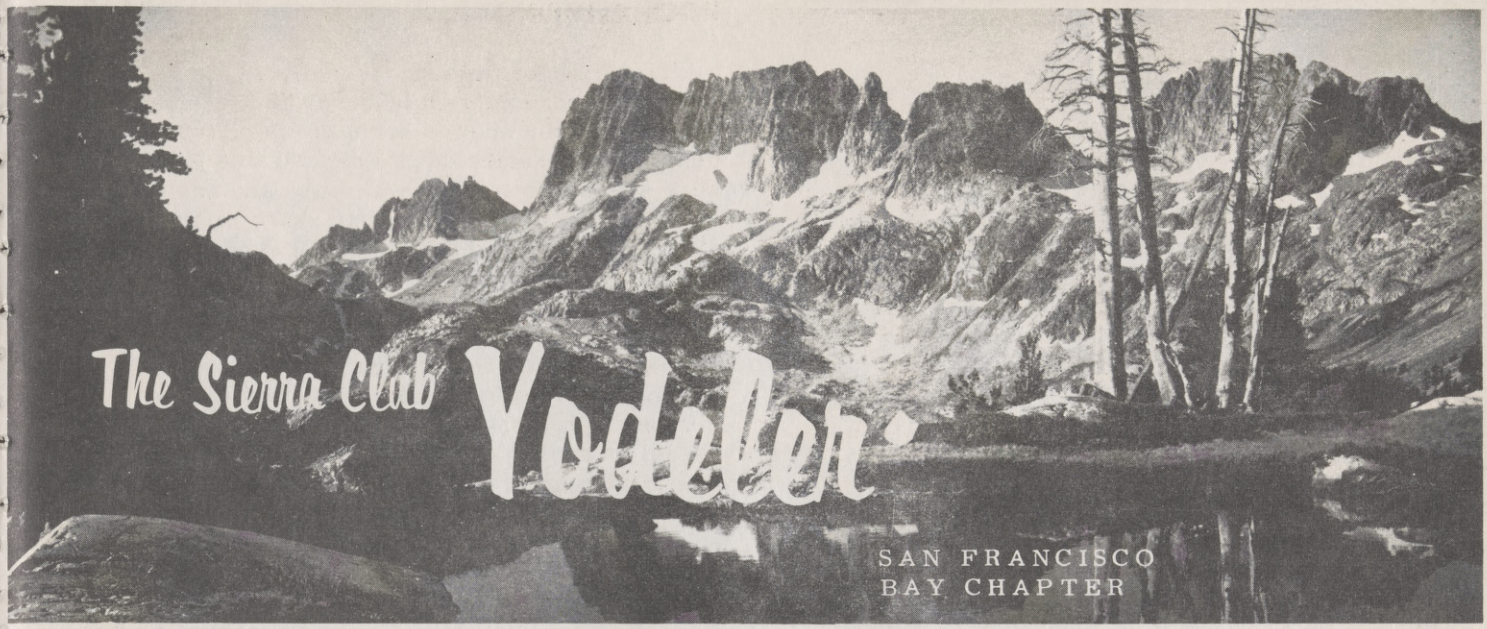


Volume XX | November 17, 1958 | Number 17

Only one more issue this year -- and the deadline is December 1. Contributors and announcement-makers please note!

~~PRESIDENT~~ EL CAPITAN WARREN HARDING

It came! It was wonderful! It was tremendous! The social event of the season!

The Annual Rock Climbers Dinner Dance-- the first one in about three years -- was a gala occasion of meeting old friends and seeing them, perhaps, for the first time in "civilian" clothes. One might even call it an opportunity for Social Climbers.

The party started off with a bang as the popping of corks announced pink champagne cocktails. Eighty people enjoyed a Chinese Smorgasbord, complete with chopsticks.

The Guest of Honor was one Warren Harding. Warren has, as some of you may have noticed in the local competitive press, just completed a bit of climbing in Yosemite. Seeing Warren's name on the free list at the party, this writer applied also and was told it would be okay but I'd have to climb El Capitan first. And in case anyone doesn't know it, that is exactly what Warren Harding, George Whitmore, and Wayne Merry have done. El Cap, well over 3,000 feet from Valley Floor to summit, with the first half varying from 85 to 90 degrees, and the upper half vertical to overhanging, sometimes as much as 120 degrees. Of course, there's a trail up around in back, but to a true climber that's "Off Route!"

(Continued on Page 2)

HEARING ON THE WILDERNESS BILL

In an hour snatched from a working day we could not get a full story on the Senate hearing on the Wilderness Bill, but here are a few impressions. A sunny high-ceilinged room with miserable acoustics, Senator Richard Neuberger presiding at a raised table with numerous assistants and recorders sitting around him and a chair at the end for the witness as he read his statement or answered questions. Senator Neuberger is a small man with a genial round face and a cheerful smile. He listened carefully, and there was a pleasant informality and relaxed atmosphere about the proceedings.

Nearly a hundred people were present at that time; one could not call them an audience, for almost all had come to speak on one side or the other, and listening was not the important part of their program. They spoke quickly, as called to the table, making the best use of their allotted five minutes to get as much as possible into the written record. We heard later that 39 witnesses supported the bill and 22 were against it.

An opponent of the bill we happened to hear was Dr. Emanuel Fritz, Professor Emeritus of the School of Forestry at U. C. His contention was that the world will soon be so full of people we can't afford to waste time trying to keep wilderness. Why can't we do as Switzerland, have pretty little villages and arms in our mountains? The tourists would not care. In any case, he thinks that only the first person into a wilderness in the spring sees it properly, after which it is ruined for the year by hordes of campers.

(Continued on Page 3)

Sierra Club Yodeler

A semi-monthly publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4.

Subscription $2.00
Accommodation Ads (Members) $.50 per ad
Accommodation Ads
(Non-Members) ..... $1.50 per inch

YODELER STAFF
Howard Frochlich, Editor

Cicely M. Christy	Erwin D. Blodgett
Doris Brown	Anna Rind
Margaret Milwain	Esther Peters
Cartoonist	Elaine Barron
Production Manager.....	A. Louis Elliott

NEXT DEADLINE: December 1st

VOLUME XX, NO. 17 November 17, 1958

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Bay Chapter Executive Board was held in the club offices on Monday, November 10. The newly elected board members were introduced as Wesley Bunnelle, Donald Huber, Phillip Faulconer and Claudia Owen. The board then proceeded to elect its new officers for the coming year, and those honored were Ned Robinson continuing as chairman, Lou Elliott resuming his role as vice-chairman, Pauline Praasterink remains secretary for the group, and new member Don Huber takes over as guardian of the pursestrings from Hasse Bunnelle.

Cicely M. Christy was again honored by the exec board by being named as Honorary Chairman in recognition of many years of faithful service in the interest of the Club. Chairman Robinson and Randal Dickey reported on the recent regional Director's meeting at Los Angeles which both attended.

Larry Williams, chairman of the Club Conservation Committee, reports that the East Bay Municipal Utility District has temporarily abandoned plans to develop Eastbay watershed lands until a survey detailing its possible need for future recreational use is completed. Williams also stated that the Club should lend its support to San Francisco groups that are fighting to retain so-called "green belt" areas as recreational property, rather than sold to subdividers for residential construction.

The next meeting of the Chapter's Executive Board will be held on Monday, December 8. All Club members are invited to sit in on these "top-level" conferences of the club's "Brass."

-- EDB

ROCK CLIMBING (Continued)

After being formally presented with his richly earned, handsomely emblazoned, plate-sized "Hero" medal, Warren showed some of his pictures. It's difficult to describe such indescribable pictures, but -- fantastic lacework of ropes and suspended climber silhouetted against an azure or turquoise sky, with a clear view of 2,000 feet of air directly below!! A rope failure is no more dangerous there than at 200 feet, the only difference is that at 2,000 you'd have a longer time to realize that you would be falling for the rest of your life.

Why do they climb? We won't say that they climbed it because it's there. Wayne Merry was quoted as saying, "Some men like to fish, some men like to play golf, I like to climb rocks!" If there are any cynics with us, they can mention the very substantial loot that Mr. Luce's LIFE has forked over for the pictures. The boys have spoiled that racket for anyone else though, nobody else will ever be able to sell pictures of a first ascent of El Capitan. Seriously, this climb was a tremendous achievement of endurance, technique, engineering, perserverance, determination -- and we of the RCS and the SC can share in the pride of our three men who have succeeded in an unprecedented achievement never before done. All Hail to Hero Harding and his staff!

Somewhat overshadowed by the stellar attractions, the rest of the RCS event was also well worth-while. In a skit depicting a climbers' committee meeting, applications of Edmund Hillary (faulty technique) and Gaston Rebuffat (no experience except North Faces) were rejected. And if you like to see someone else get a pie in the face, everyone except Carl Weisner enjoyed it. That honor is reserved for the RCS Chairman. And Bob Swift, also winner of a Hero medal, showed his excellent presentation of the 1958 expedition to Gasherbrum (8,000+M). Not only was this a first ascent, it was the first American ascent of an acht-tausender.

It was a fine evening -- let's hope the Climbers hold the Annual Dinner every year.

-- HF

P. S. We felt we had to get something in before press time. The Yodeler would welcome an authentic write-up of the El Cap Climb from a more informed source, especially from some-one who could tell it in the first person.

MORE ON LIFE AMONG THE ROCK CLIMBERS

Election day for the U.S. was election day for the RCS. The old-new chairman is Carl Weisner. The new committee chairmen are Mike Loughman, Qualifications; John Shonle, Schedules; John Dorsey, Rescue; Larry Lackey, Safety; Chuck Belling, Equipment; and Bob Hill, Social.

Famous last words: "Don't bother to check the rappel rope; it'll run."

Signed:
After-dinner "Breakfast" Club.

CONSERVATION (Continued)

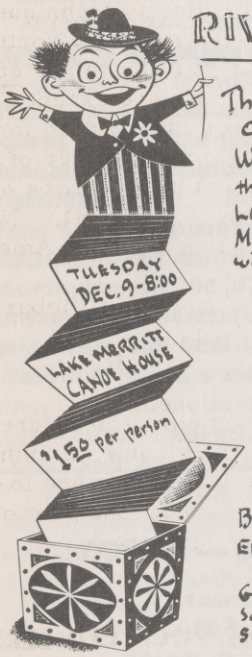
Another opponent praised the miners and prospectors, "The unsung heroes of the Wilderness", for pioneering roads into the wilderness and so making it accessible for campers.

Dave Brower pointed out in his testimony that most of the opponents were attacking wilderness itself, forgetting that Wilderness Areas are an accomplished fact. *

The printed record will contain all of these statements and many others sent directly to the Senate Committee, and it will be fascinating and important reading. Leaders of conservation groups in this area put a tremendous amount of time and thought into careful preparation for the hearing, and the atmosphere was in general favorable to our hopes for the Bill.

*National Park and Forest wilderness is already established by administrative action: the Wilderness Bill would make this protection a matter of Congressional policy.

-- CMC



We MUST know how much food to prepare so you should get tickets or make reservations NOW. Mail your check to Bob Hawley, 1925 Hopkins, Berkeley 7, or call:

San Francisco	Dirk Breymann	AN 1-3508; OL 8-2388
Marin	Slavka Cibilich	WA 4-2330
Peninsula	Pauline Praasterink	PL 5-2704
Oakland	Glenn Gaumer	OL 2-3196
	Jim Thor	LU 2-5351; LO 8-8675
	Barbara Tilden	OL 5-9521
	Lou Elliott	HI 4 -2054; OL 5-3801

CTL NEWS

A big news of the weekend was the work-party party which was held at the warming hut. Anyone who had been on work party at least 4 times received a weekend free with all refreshments. Jerry Fischer had a roaring fire awaiting us when we arrived at the hut. It was quite welcome because the temperature outside ranged from zero to 11 degrees and there was newly fallen snow on the ground. Speaking of snow, do you have your guess in for when 30" will fall. One entry per person and the winner will receive a free weekend at the Lodge. So send a card to Keith with your guess, name, and address.

People you know -- Phyllis Moore and Bob Beattie were married in Sacramento on November 9. Harry and Lillian Abraham's newest tax deduction arrived October 7. It is called Robin Bruce. Dick and Mary Schroter welcomed a new arrival, Charles Michael, on October 28.

Lodge Committee News: Roger Paris was accepted, and will be teaching again this season. Work party accomplishments: The leach line is finished, foundations under the dining room and North West annex are done, the registry entrance is remodeled, the tow is ready to go, with a new rope, and at present hardwood flooring is going on throughout the lodge.

Work parties will continue until heavy snow falls, probably around the middle of December. Write Keith if you wish to participate, or contact ride-coordinators Anita Suran or Donna Harvey.

Bus -- New Year's is the tentative starting date, possibly earlier if there is sufficient demand. Make reservations through club office. NOTE new San Francisco departure point, new mint at Market (easier parking). No change in Berkeley stop. The bus will also help in ski-touring, picking up Lincoln-Donner Lake skiers for return to the Lodge.

An Olympic Sub-committee has been formed to formulate policy on handling of reservations, who can come, priority regulations, etc. 1960 is coming!

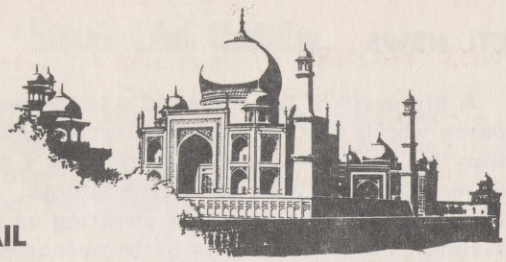
The Club will participate in the Bay Area Ski Federation Winter Carnival February 7 and 8. Contact Diane or Gerry at the Lodge if you can help.

Movies: John Jay's "White Flight" will be at the Nourse Auditorium in San Francisco, Dec. 2, at 8:30, and at the Berkeley Auditorium December 3. Double check posters at local ski shops.

-- Roberta Cddis

BOAT BUILDING

Anyone interested in building a fiberglass boat, contact Elsa Bailey, OLympic 4-5640, right away, if you wish wholesale rates on materials. Molds are now being made for the River Touring Section. Materials will cost about $60.00 and the boat will take a minimum of 40 hours' work. Instruction will be provided.



IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

We have a very interesting letter from a lucky girl who can visit Europe every weekend--she teaches just across the intercontinental line in Asia:

The Amerikan Kiz Lisesi in Uskudar, Turkiye, is a school for upperclass girls. The girls are very lovely, dark hair and eyes, darker skin, somewhat fuller, softer features, and many with extreme beauty of face and figure. There are also many blonds and blue eyes among them and so it is difficult to say what a typical Turk looks like. As in any school, some are spoiled terribly, some are disobedient and many are very cooperative, friendly, and capable of carrying great responsibilities. It is quite something to see them flocking to school in the early morning, in their bright patterned skirts, and in the later fall, in their navy blue uniforms and black stockings, laughing and chattering in Turkish and sometimes in English.

The girls have quite a load during the day. They have 8 periods of class a day starting at 8:30 and running to 4:05. They carry over 12 subjects in Turkish and English. These youngsters really work.

Our school is located on a hill somewhat outside the main city of Uskudar. We command a perfect view of the Bosporus and like to watch the ships coming in and out of the blue, blue waters of the harbor. From my window I can see the Black Sea, and if I cross the hall I can see the Marmara Sea. Beyond are the mountains, and all around us are mountains, a tawny brown in color, with silver greens, olives, darker almonds, brown bushes, and spots of red and gold where some trees have changed their leaves. Donkeys, goats and chickens live close enough to remind us of their presence in the night. The streets feature cars, busses, trucks and multitudes of wise little donkeys, and horses of all descriptions pulling gay and brightly decorated wooden carts with high spoked wheels. Moving down into the city one might run into a flock of turkeys * or a ram being led around ..... Beyond are the plains leading to the Kemel pass in the mountains, where Ataturk, the founder of the Republic, turned back the Greeks and began the liberation of Turkey.

Would like to have the Yodeler ** but have no way of sending out the $1 -- we are forbidden to send money out of the country.

Have been in touch with the Turkish version of the Sierra Club. Rather funny since I am the first woman to ask to join *** the men are "thinking" about it and I'll tell you later. -- Barbara Kasmire

* Naturally, this being Turkey!
** It must really be rough living without the Yodeler!
*** Maybe the SC should adopt the Turkish policy!!
Footnote jokes (!) by -- HF

THE FOURTH ESTATE

Our talented rock-climbers have reached for a new height -- publishing a newspaper! The first issue, unnamed, is surprisingly serious-minded, with notices of events, restatement of RCS safety rules, a conscientious editorial (Mike Loughman) on care of The Rope, and an interesting section, "Some Comments on a Long Rappel", by Bob Hill. He states at the end that "People now regard climbers as something to watch (like bears) rather than as something to get panicky about. Perhaps in time it may not be necessary to take food along."

RCS levity pops up again in a write-up of the Yosemite Valley trip on October 4 and 5. The author says that a few of the group climbing Pulpit Rock gave up on finding the " 'Improbable Traverse' impossible. John Shonle led a party of three up Lower Cathedral Rock by the 'Overhang By-pass' route, but found to his chagrin that not only had he bypassed the overhang, but almost the whole rock."

Anyway, after careful review of our possible competitor, we generously give it our blessing. Welcome to the migraine and ecstasy of small-time newspaper business!

Another beautiful issue of The Argonaut appears, with a very nice reproduction of a Geological Survey map of the Breakneck Ridge Trail in the West Point, N. Y., quadrangle. We see that the Atlantic Chapter has bought the "Wilderness Alps of Stehekin" movie. Among their local conservation items, we noted that both governorship candidates in New York supported the entirety of the Forest Preserve, which is at the moment in danger from lumbering interests. Also, that the American Cyanamid Co. has promised to use in all its plants a newly discovered disposal process to end stream pollution. Many suburban and open-space programs are forming in the eastern states: Essex County, N.J., which has no parks, has plans for five, including 10,500 acres; some New York families together purchased and gave to the city for park use, a plot of land that was about to become a gas station. And there are a number of other similar developments mentioned.

-- DB

HOLIDAY PEAK CLIMB — MEXICO

December 21, 1958 - January 3, or 10, 1959. Cost: from $250. Will make as many attempts on major peaks as possible in 2 or 3 week period. More extensive schedule if enough interest to stay longer. Some non-climbers will be in party. Reservations and details:

Joe Wampler, Box 45,
Berkeley 1, California

-- Advertisement

THE BEST IN THE WEST

The accumulation of books, journals and documents in the Sierra Club office is, you may have noticed, rapidly becoming a library. In due time it is expected to be the best of its kind in the West (Hemisphere, of course). All that is needed to do this are money and help. The Board of Directors generously provides money but refuses to work in the library. The Library Committee meets once a month but merely thinks up new things to do. The important work in the Library is done every TUESDAY EVENING under the expert guidance of Wesley Noble and Dick Pitman. At least two additional persons are needed on the Library team to help make the Library the best in the West. No experience (library, that is) is necessary. Persons with library experience are also welcome for special tasks. Stop in at the Club Office next Tuesday evening, or contact Noble, Pitman, or Siri. Apply early to avoid the rush.

-- Will Siri,
Library Committee

The Sierra Club Library would like to Beg, Borrow, or Steal a 1955 and a 1956 Base Camp Book.

JOANNE'S AWFULLY SORRY

An apology is in store for all of you dear people who came to the New Members' Meeting on the 12th. Since no notice of its cancellation was published, how were you to know?

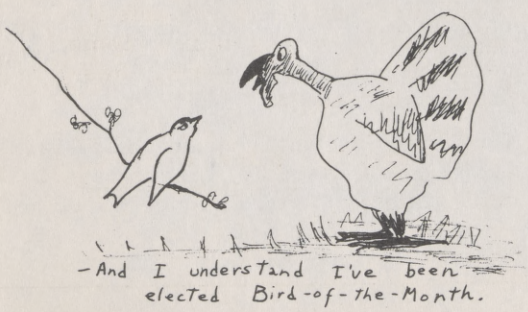
These things happen in the best of all organized worlds, and when they happen in disorganized ways, chaos results.

I am so sorry. And even if you don't forgive me, please forgive the other members of the Committee; they didn't even know there was supposed to be a meeting.

There will be a meeting, however; everything's been reserved (room, slide projector, apple cider), and if you don't want to come, I understand. The date is January 21. You new members will be sent post cards.

And again, I'm sorry.

-- Joanne Evers
(whose head is hung in shame)



HELP WANTED Advertising manager for the schedule. Man or woman, no advertising experience necessary. (Somebody should be able to meet these requirements--Ed.) Call Hasse Bunnelle, at OLympic 5-3652, any evening except Tuesday or Thursday.

FOR SALE 1 pair reinforced Weed chains, will fit all 5.50-16, 6.40-15, and 7.00-14 tires. Was $16 new, now only $7. Car wore out before chains. Julius Siddon, 1010 Bush, S.F., YUkon 2-1869 days, ORdway 3-5070 evenings.

HEILITE CAMPING TRAILER (tent large enough to sleep six, double-bed size, inner spring mattress, trailer hitch, all included) FOR SALE. Total weight 230 lbs. Mattress and tent easily removed; trailer can be used for hauling. Retails for $595. Mattress and tent new, trailer used once. Will sell for $400. G.P. Schumacher, 3032 North Inyo St., Bakersfield, Phone FAirview 3-0867.

LOST Who lost a 35 mm. Kodachrome slide of a small boy with a green felt hat, taken in the High Country? He wears his father's rucksack, which hangs to his knees. This was loaned in the spring of 1957 for summer outing publicity, and was returned by mistake with the family burro trip pictures. We're sorry we didn't tell you about it sooner. Dave Michener, 2616 Etna St., Berkeley 4, THornwall 3-6866.

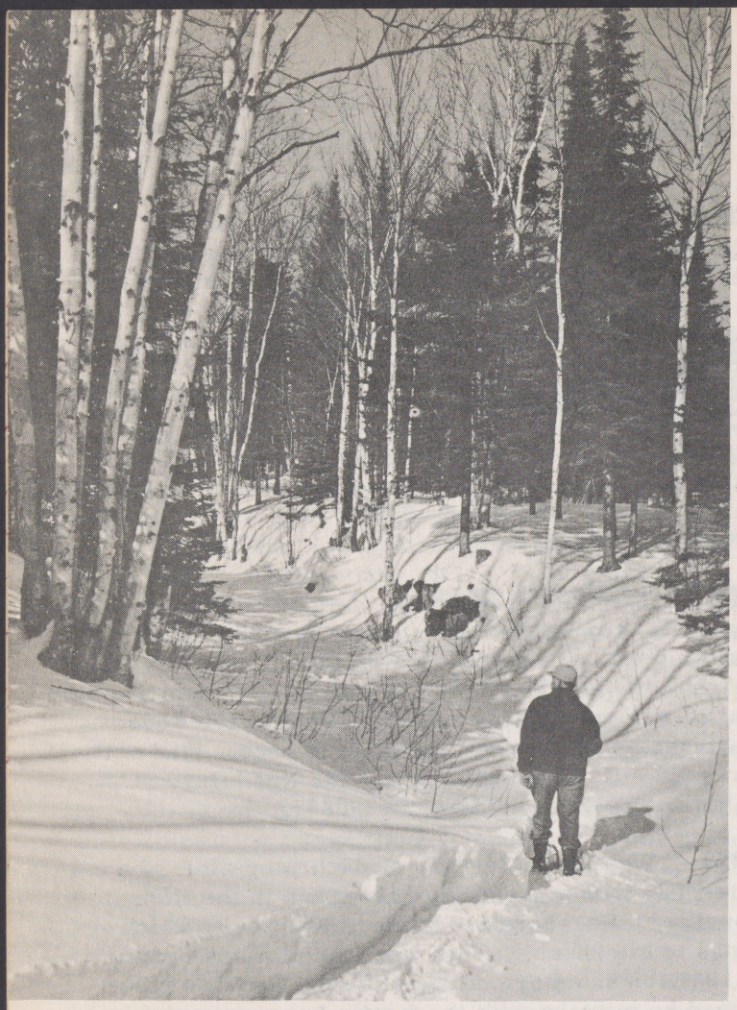
NOW OPEN: The new and complete "WAGNER TRAILER PARK" 7 miles east of DHS on Dillon Rd., then right on Bennett Road. 85 spaces to care for the largest trailers. 132° Natural Hot Water from our own well. 5 Swimming Pools. Laundry with 6 Maytag washers, Recreation Room, complete with kitchen. Rentals: $50 to $60 monthly - $2.50 overnight.

FOR SALE Head Skis, unscarred, with Ski Free bindings, 6' 3". $65.00. Perfect for a "lightweight" about 5'3" tall. Call LAndscape 6-7637 or see them at The Ski Hut, Berkeley.

GOOD READING

A book just read, and much enjoyed, is "Conservation in America" by Dorothy Childs Hogner (Lippincott) which in spite of its schoolroom title is light and easy reading for anyone over about 15 years. It covers the whole field of our national resources from a sound understanding of the importance of wilderness to a colorful description of Fulton Fish Market in New York City. The conservation of soil and water is well described and its connection with wildlife is clearly brought out. Do a good turn for conservation by asking for it at your local library.

-- CMC



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OAKLAND, CALIF.
PERMIT 1929

TIME VALUE
Please Expedite

The Sierra Club
1050 Mills Tower 220 Bush Street
San Francisco 4, California

LAST CALL CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

"Get your tickets early", warns Betty Klevesahl, Chairman of the Sierra Club Annual Christmas Party, to be held December 6, at the Glenview Women's Club, 1318 Glenfield Avenue, Oakland. Space is limited and party preparations give basis for speculation that the affair will be even more gay and entertaining than the excellent parties of the past.

Adding to the need for early planning is the fact that reservations for pre-party dinners and get-togethers should be arranged at least a week before December 6. A get-to-gether in Marin County has been included with those already announced in the East Bay and San Francisco.

Larry Douglas should be contacted for Marin County dinner reservations. (Call DUnlap 8-4511) Call Clyde Wiborg (KEllog 2-2342) for East Bay and Elsa Gluckert (LOmbard 4-7656) or Simon Miedema (LOmbard 4-2706) for San Francisco. Bill Hamblin (KEllog 6-2388) can also be contacted by East Bay party revelers. Rides to the Christmas Party may also be coordinated by the above members.

Murray Petersen and his orchestra will start the dancing off at 9:00 p.m. with mixers, other entertainment is planned for intermissions, and punch and delicacies from the buffet table will be available all evening.

Come stag or couples - tickets $3.00 per person. They should be purchased early to get in on the fun.

FOR TICKETS CONTACT

Sierra Club Office	YUkon 2-2822
Ski Hut - Berkeley	THornwall 3-6505
Larry Douglas	DUnlap 8-4511
Joe Ferry	PRospect 5-3020
Donna Harvey	THornwall 3-6238
Marian Jordan	OLympic 3-1935
Betty Klevesahl	LAndscape 6-6756
Marie Mans	THornwall 8-5186
Jim McCracken	BEacon 3-5586
Simon Miedema	LOmbard 4-2706
Georgella Perry	THornwall 8-7709
Herb Sabel	KEllog 6-4169

All mail orders go to Walt Oppenheimer, 1288 - 36th Avenue, San Francisco 22, checks payable to Sierra Club Christmas Party. (Price $3.00 per ticket.)

-- EDB